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ELECTION

The applicants elect the subcombination of Group II, i.e., claims 1-9 and 12-17, *with traverse*.

It is submitted that dependent claims 10 and 11 should be examined along with their parent claim 1. Once claim 1 is allowable, the claims dependent therefrom will also be allowable.

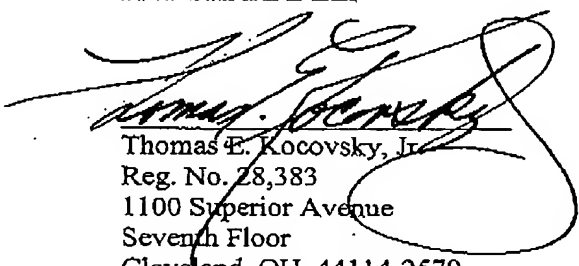
Further, the present bearing is particularly well-suited for drag vacuum pumps. It is submitted that during the search, the Examiner will review numerous patents which include bearings in combination with vacuum pumps.

Accordingly, it is submitted that examining all claims will require no further search or examination and will not be burden on the U.S. Patent Office.

An early allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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